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Application No. 10/825,521

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1, 7-9 and 15 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 2, 6, 10 and 11 as follows:

1. Canceled.

2. (Currently Amended) A socket for electrical parts according to claim 1, wherein the latch operative mechanism comprises: a support member that supports the latch vertically movable with respect to the socket body, and a lever member that operates the latch when the socket cover is raised from the lowest position.

3. (Original) A socket for electrical parts according to claim 2, further comprising an urging member which urges the support member upwards.

4. (Original) A socket for electrical parts according to claim 2, wherein the lever member is positioned outside of the latch in the socket body.

5. (Original) A socket for electrical parts according to claim 4, wherein a point of pressure at which the lever member receives a force from the socket cover, moves away from a fulcrum of the lever member with a rise of the socket cover.

6. (Currently Amended) A socket for electrical parts ~~according to claim 1, comprising:~~
a socket body formed with a mounting portion on which an electrical part is mounted;
a socket cover installed vertically movable with respect to the socket body;
a latch that opens and closes, synchronized with an operation of the socket cover, that holds the electrical part on the mounting portion in a closed state, and leaves the electrical part open on the mounting portion in an opened state; and
a latch operative mechanism that opens and closes the latch, that opens the latch in a state with the socket cover pushed to a lowest position, and closes the latch with a rise of the socket cover

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from the lowest position, and moves the latch relatively downward in association with the closing operation of the latch, wherein the latch and the latch operative mechanism are provided in the socket body on all sides of the mounting portion, so as to surround the mounting portion.

7. Canceled

8. Canceled

9. Canceled

10. (Currently Amended) A socket for electrical parts according to claim 9 ~~11~~, wherein the latch operative mechanism further comprises an urging member that urges the latch upward with respect to the socket body.

11. (Currently Amended) A socket for electrical parts ~~according to claim 9, comprising a socket body formed with a mounting portion on which an electrical part is mounted;~~

a socket cover installed so as to surround the mounting portion and be able to move between a highest position set at a relatively upper position with respect to the socket body, and a lowest position set downward from the highest position;

a latch that opens and closes, synchronized with an operation of the socket cover, that holds the electrical part on the mounting portion in a closed state, and leaves the electrical part open on the mounting portion in an opened state; and

a latch operative mechanism that opens and closes the latch corresponding to a position of the socket cover, the latch operative mechanism including a first shaft member that supports the latch vertically movable with respect to the socket body and a lever member disposed between the socket cover and the support member that moves the first shaft member downward in association with the return of the socket cover from the lowest position to the highest position, the latch rotating about a central axis of the first shaft member to open and close;

and the latch operative mechanism opens the latch when the socket cover is at the lowest position, and positions the latch at an opening position, and closes the latch when the socket cover

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is at the highest position, and positions the latch at a holding position set relatively downward from the opening position; and

wherein the latch operative mechanism further comprises a second shaft member with a position thereof with respect to the socket body being fixed, and

the lever member has a portion formed with a first hole, and a portion formed with a second hole of an elliptic shape longer in a direction perpendicular to a circumferential direction of the first hole,

and the first shaft member is inserted in the second hole, and
the second shaft member is inserted in the first hole.

12. (Original) A socket for electrical parts according to claim 11, wherein the second shaft member is located outside of the first shaft member, with respect to an in and out direction of the socket cover determined as a direction perpendicular to a moving direction of the socket cover.

13. (Original) A socket for electrical parts according to claim 12, wherein the lever member is driven by the socket cover at the time of return of the socket cover, to displace the second hole in a rotation direction about the first hole.

14. (Original) A socket for electrical parts according to claim 13, wherein a point of pressure at which the lever member receives a force from the socket cover at the time of return of the socket cover, moves away from the first hole with the return of the socket cover.

15. Canceled.